



The President's Daily Brief

30 October 1972

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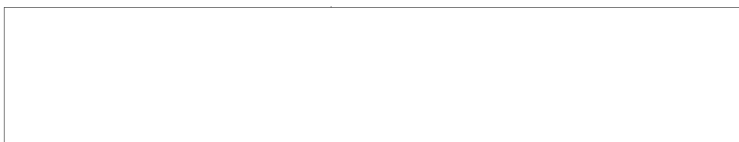
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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In Laos the Communists for the first time have occupied Keng Kok, an important town southeast of Savannakhet. (Page 2)

President Allende abruptly broke off negotiations with Chilean strike leaders on 27 October. (Page 3)

Two fundamental political questions continue to block completion of a draft treaty between East and West Germany. (Page 4)

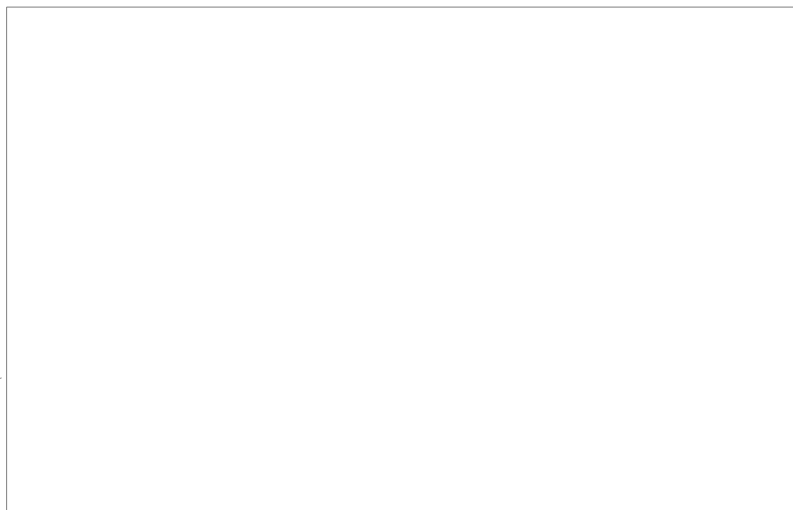
Israeli planes attacked four Arab guerrilla training bases within eight miles of Damascus early this morning. (Page 5)

Prime ministers of the two Yemens have announced an agreement to unite their countries and end the war, but there are obstacles to implementation. (Page 5)

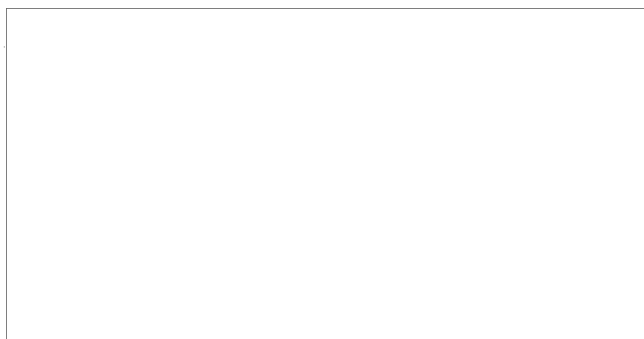
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SOUTH VIETNAM



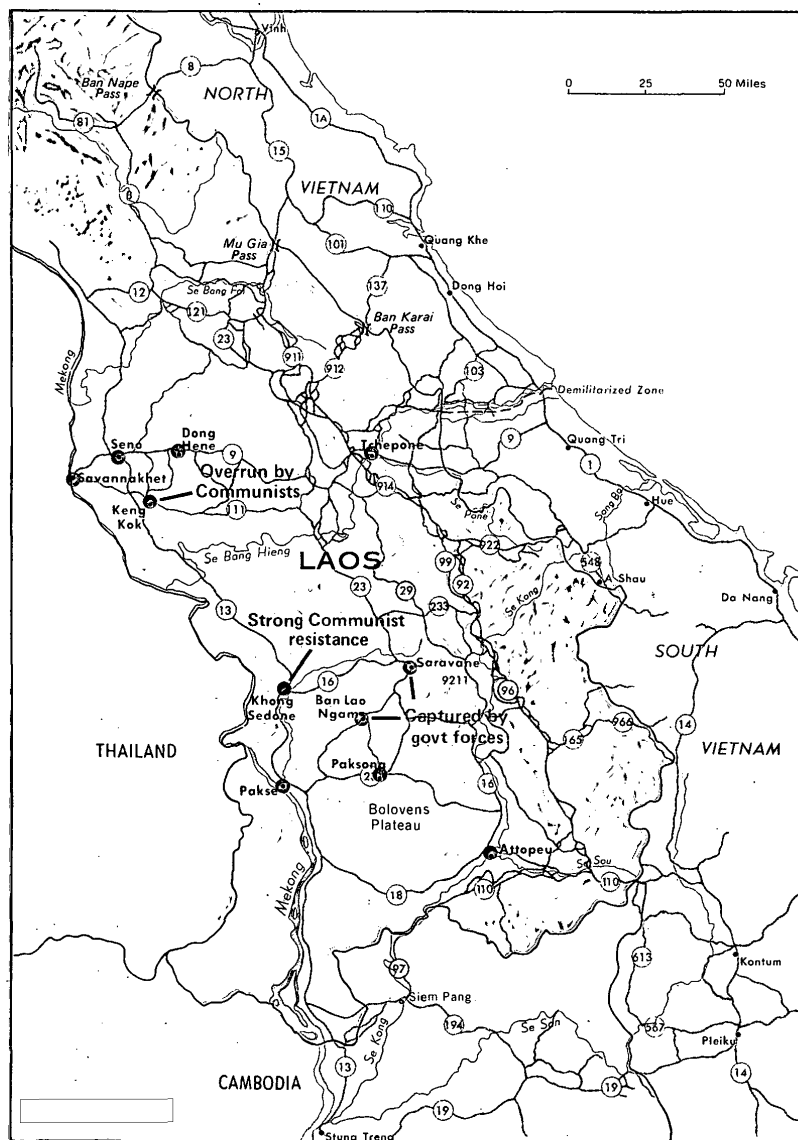
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● Government-held location ● Communist-held location

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LAOS

The Communists for the first time have occupied Keng Kok, an important town 30 miles southeast of Savannakhet in the Lao panhandle. They also appear to be preparing to attack Seno, a town to the north where major Lao Army training facilities are located.

This activity in the panhandle seems designed to obstruct any government push west to capture towns on Route 9.

Farther south the Communists are faring less well. Irregular troops drove the last North Vietnamese forces out of Saravane over the weekend and occupied Ban Lao Ngam, a small town just north of the Bolovens Plateau. Lao Army units have been unable, however, to retake Khong Sedone to the west.

In the north Vang Pao continues to regroup the task force which was driven off the southern Plaine des Jarres with heavy casualties on 26 October.

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CHILE

President Allende abruptly broke off negotiations with strike leaders on 27 October. After a meeting with leaders of his Popular Unity coalition, he abandoned his conciliatory position, stating that the protesters' latest proposals were "political" and directed at limiting presidential power.

The Socialist Party has consistently urged Allende to take a hard line. In addition, the army's firm support of the government may have convinced the coalition parties that they can afford to delay a settlement.

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

After three days of negotiations last week, the West Germans report that a treaty draft is "more or less" complete, except for two fundamental political questions. The East Germans continue to reject West German insistence on including references to common German nationhood and a statement that the accord is not a substitute for a World War II peace treaty. Leaders in Bonn are increasingly doubtful that Pankow will give in on these two issues. They regard the negotiating session this week as the last opportunity to reach agreement before the election of parliament on 19 November.

Some West German officials believe that Bonn should accept the treaty on East German terms--without the references mentioned above--if the three Western Allies succeed in obtaining Soviet consent to include acceptable statements on these issues in the Four Power document being negotiated to sponsor the entry of both German states into the UN. So far, however, the Soviets have rejected Western proposals for the kind of statements that Bonn wants.

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NOTES

Israel-Fedayeen: Israeli planes attacked four Arab guerrilla training bases within eight miles of Damascus early this morning. The strike occurred less than 12 hours after the hijacked Lufthansa plane arrived in Tripoli carrying the three Palestinian terrorists released by Bonn.

The Yemens: The prime ministers of Sana and Aden have announced an agreement to unify their countries and end the war. Their respective heads of state are scheduled to meet in Libya on 25 November to ratify the agreement, which would not go into effect for a year. We are not optimistic that this agreement will end the fighting, particularly because neither the anti-Adeni rebels in Sana nor their Saudi Arabian patrons support the accord. Furthermore, the Sana government does not have the support of many important military and tribal leaders either for an end to the fighting or for unification.

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